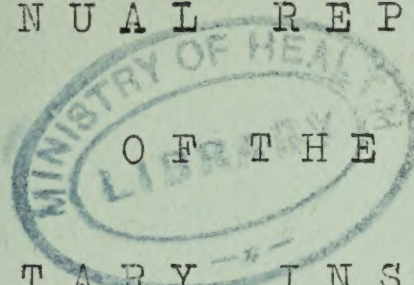


OTLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1948.

H.R. WHITAKER.

Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Office,
North Parade,
Ostend.
August, 1948.

OTLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Committee.

(as at 31st December 1948)

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Chairman of the Council

Councillor A. Myers.

Chairman.

Councillor G. Lambert.

---oOo---

Councillor M.J. Feather

" T. Johnson

" T.S. Pickles

" R. Renwick

" H.T. Spence

" Mrs. D.I. Wilkinson.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant.

A.R. Whitaker

Council Offices,

North Parade,

OTLEY.

August, 1949.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Otley Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my annual report for the year ended the 31st December, 1948.

On January 1st 1948, I was appointed in a temporary capacity for a period of three months, and was appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st April, 1948.

The work of the department during the year has been very varied and most interesting. It has been a busy year, during which time every effort has been made to give prompt attention to complaints, infectious disease enquiry and disinfection.

Routine inspections have been made to such premises as shops, factories, dairies, food preparing premises, bakehouses, petroleum stores, public conveniences, etc., as often as has been possible, but I feel that more attention could be usefully given to these routine visits if assistance were made available to the department. More frequent sampling of private water supplies, milk and ice cream is also very desirable.

Despite the aforementioned need I can assure Members that foodstuffs, and catering generally, are handled and managed hygienically within your area.

In February the ambulance service was transferred to the County Council, thus terminating a local service of almost 20 years standing.

I wish to record my sincere thanks for the kindly consideration accorded me by the Chairman and Members of the Council, and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I should also like to express my indebtedness to Dr. R.A.W. Proctor, Medical Officer of Health for his willing help during the year, also my thanks to Mr. F. Laughey, Clerk to the Council, and to the other Officers and Members of the staff for their help throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant.

H.R. Whitaker

HOUSING.

The efforts of the Council are very commendable regarding the provision of new houses. During the year 100 new houses were completed ready for occupation, and the allotment of houses by the points system did in some measure relieve distressing conditions for many.

Unfortunately the waiting list of prospective tenants is large, but it is hoped that continued energetic building operations will solve the problem during the next few years.

I am, however, most acutely aware of many properties within the area which continue to deteriorate and are rapidly approaching the state when only demolition and clearance area action will be possible. It is difficult to decide what action to take in respect of the dwelling which, due to shortages of labour and materials during war years; has deteriorated beyond economical repair. Obviously it is unfair to ask the owner to expend great sums of money on repairs, but, on the other hand the tenants are entitled to reasonable living conditions.

General repairs to premises have been much facilitated during the year by the lifting of controls on materials. In most cases an informal notice to the responsible person was all that was needed from this department to secure necessary repairs to property and in only one case was legal action necessary.

The true position with regard to overcrowding in the area is not known. Only a detailed housing survey would reveal the facts, but I think it true to say that the worst cases of overcrowding are known to the Council and that remedial measures are, and will continue to be, quickly applied.

It is, however, disturbing to note that many persons who are suffering unpleasantness and inconvenience due to two or more families living in one dwelling, are not overcrowded according to the standard laid down in the Housing Act, 1936, but some consolation may be drawn from the fact that the Council's points scheme improves on the legal definition and thereby gives housing applicants a distinct advantage in cases of near legal overcrowding.

I am happy to state that full co-operation exists between the Housing Department and the Health Department in regard to applicants for Council houses. Any queries are dealt with promptly and the possibility of transference of verminous conditions to new houses is not overlooked.

NUISANCES.

No great difficulty was experienced during the year in securing the abatement of nuisances. In 14 cases only was it necessary to serve Statutory Notice and in one case only was legal action taken. Of 510 nuisances found during the year, plus 23 outstanding nuisances from 1947, 507 were abated at 31st December 1948, thus leaving 26 still to be remedied.

Informal Notices served	509
Informal Notices complied with	483
Statutory Notices served	14
Statutory Notices complied with	13
Legal proceedings	1

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Works carried out for the abatement of nuisances.

Stoppages removed from drains	300
Defective drains repaired	12
New 4" drains laid	4
Drain inspection chambers built	3
Sink waste pipes repaired	9
Sink gully reset and pointed	1
Gully grates provided	3
Trapped gully fitted	1
Defective fallpipes repaired	13
Trapped waste pipes repaired	4
Defective soil pipe repaired	1
Eavespouts repaired	8
Eavespouts cleansed	5
New 4" soil and vent stacks erected	3
New water closet seat fitted	1
New inside water closets installed	4
Water closet seat repaired	1
Elsan closets cleansed	8
W.C. cistern repaired	1
Cesspools cleansed and guard rails reprd.	2
Lavatory basins fitted	3
New wash basin fitted	1
New baths fitted	2
New wash copper provided	1
New washbasin pipe fitted	1
Washboilers repaired	2
Brickwork to set pot repaired	1
Fireplaces repaired	2
Defective chimney flue repaired	1
Cooking range reset	1
New oven provided	1
Firebacks repaired	3
New fireplaces fixed	3
Sets of broken firebars replaced	2
Defective house roofs repaired	12
Defective plasterwork repaired	4
Airgrates fitted to bedrooms	2
Defective window frames repaired	4
Defective window hinge repaired	1
Defective floor repaired	1
House doors repaired	2
Window cords fitted	27
Ceiling plaster repaired	1
Beetle infestations remedied	6

No great difficulty was experienced during the year in securing the statement of witnesses. In all cases only was it necessary to serve statutory notices and in one case only was legal action taken. Of 210 witnesses taken during the year, plus 25 outstanding witnesses from 1947, 207 were stated at first December 1948, thus leaving 23 still to be recorded.

209	Informal Notices served
187	Informal Notices completed with
14	Statutory Notices served
12	Statutory Notices completed with
1	Legal proceedings

Work carried out for the statement of witnesses.

200	Stoppages removed from dining
12	Defective drains repaired
4	New 4" drains laid
3	Drain inspection chambers built
2	Sink waste pipes repaired
1	Sink gully boxes and joints
1	Gully boxes provided
1	Trough gully fitted
13	Defective water closets repaired
1	New water closets installed
1	Water closet seat repaired
1	Flank closet cleaned
1	W.C. external repaired
1	Garage floor cleaned and gutter rails repainted
1	Inventory books fitted
1	How work book fitted
1	How books fitted
1	New wash copper provided
1	New washbasin pipe fitted
1	Washbasins repaired
1	Plaster work for not repaired
1	Thripases repaired
1	Defective chimney flue repaired
1	Cooking range reset
1	New oven provided
1	Thripases repaired
1	New thripases fixed
1	Seat of broken thripases repaired
12	Defective house roofs repaired
4	Defective plasterwork repaired
2	Airbrakes fitted to bedrooms
4	Defective window frames repaired
1	Defective window frame repaired
1	Defective floor repaired
2	House doors repaired
27	Window cords fitted
1	Celling plaster repaired

Brought forward	468
Premises rat proofed	2
Mouses infested premises remedied	1
Rat infested premises remedied	31
Houses treated with D.D.T.	4
Housing treated for bug infestation	10
Contaminated bedding destroyed	1
Dirty cowsheds cleansed	4
Poultry kept so as to be a nuisance - removed	2
Houses disinfested of silverfish	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	13
Dirty houses cleansed	3
Dustbins provided	85

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CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

The work of infectious disease enquiry and disinfection of premises after removal of cases of infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital has continued throughout the year.

Rooms are sprayed with Formalin and then subjected to fumigation formal-dehyde gas. The bedding and clothing are steam disinfected at the Isolation Hospital. In all 37 premises were disinfected (a total of 140 rooms) during the year. In addition 5 rooms and contents were fumigated on request of the occupiers following deaths from malignant disease.

DISINFESTATION.

Bed Bugs. Ten cases of infestation by bed bugs were dealt with during the year. Nine cases were of a minor character, only one being a moderately heavy infestation. Treatment in all cases was effective. In addition to actual infestations four barrier treatments were carried out. The possibilities of creating a barrier against bug infestation is one of the great advantages of the advances of science in the field of insecticides. With such insecticides as D.D.T., Gammexane etc. premises can be treated so as to leave a very minute deposit of lethal (to insects) material on all surfaces. This deposit retains its lethal properties for many weeks. In this way any premises threatened with infestation say from adjoining premises can be protected.

Other Pests. Infestation by other insects, cockroaches, flies and silver fish have been dealt with by the use of D.D.T. and Gammexane in smoke, powder or liquid form according to the particular place and type of infestation. Treatment in all cases was effective.

Rats and Mice. Thirty-one cases of infestation by rats were dealt with during the year. Rat infestations are classified according to estimated numbers as 'reservoir', 'major' and 'minor'.

I am happy to state that there are no reservoir or major infestations in the district.

Methods of eradication recommended by the Ministry of Food have been used, which include poisoning and trapping. Prebaiting with sausage rusk and then poisoning with zinc phosphide added to prebait has been most successful.

One case of mice infestation was dealt with by breakback traps.

All services of rat and mice destruction are offered to the public free of charge and in addition red squill rat biscuits are available from the Sanitary Department, also free of charge.

In September a 10% test baiting of the towns sewers showed no evidence of rat infestation.

CAMPING SITES - TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

There are two licensed camping sites in the Urban District:-

The Clarion Clubhouse, West Chevin and Whitehouse Farm, Chevin Side.

The licences permit a maximum of 50 campers on each respective site.

There has been no cause for complaint at either camping ground throughout the year.

Three temporary dwellings on land in East Busk Lane were brought to the notice of the Health Committee towards the end of the year. The Committee decided to view the premises in order to decide what action to take in the matter.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

There are no private slaughterhouse in the Urban District. All slaughtering of food animals is carried out at the Council's Public Abattoir, Bondgate, in accordance with the scheme of centralised slaughtering. Under this scheme all meat sold in Otley Urban, Wharfedale Rural and Aireborough Urban Districts is dealt with at the abattoir.

The scheme of centralised slaughter has operated since January 1940. Briefly the scheme is worked as follows.

The Ministry of Food purchases food animals at the Cattle Markets and delivers to the Abattoir. The Slaughter House Manager appointed by the Ministry of Food takes over the live animals and is responsible for supervision of slaughtering and dressing.

Whilst in the possession of the Ministry of Food it is my duty as your Meat and Foods Inspector to examine all carcasses and offals and reject any meat which is unsound, diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption.

Sound meat is then graded for quality by the Slaughterhouse Manager and a representative of the Wholesale Meat Supply Association. The meat is then taken over by the W.M.S.A. who act as agents between the Ministry of Food and the Otley Butcher's Association. The Butcher's Association on taking over the meat is then responsible for its distribution to the retail butcher according to his Food Office Permits.

This system works well and at all times throughout the year the most cordial co-operation has existed between the Slaughter House Manager, the W.M.S.A., the Butcher's Association and this Department.

In addition to the Ministry of Food slaughtering private owners may use the Public Abattoir for the purpose of slaughtering cottager pigs and non-controlled food animals (e.g. goats). An accommodation slaughter fee of two shillings is charged for a pig, and six pence for a goat.

Animals Slaughtered at the Abattoir:-

	Year	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Total
By Min. of Food	1948	1809	414	5424	199	-	7846
	1947	1879	270	4991	61	-	7201
By Private Owners	1948	-	-	-	161	29	190
	1947	-	-	-	121	46	167

Therefore in 1948 the total animals slaughtered at the Abattoir was 8036 as against 7368 in 1947.

The number of casualty animals for the year 1948 (included in the figures in the table above) was 627, made up of 204 cattle, 198 calves, 60 sheep and 165 pigs. The casualty figure is high, representing about 12 animals per week. In many cases, because of the very nature of the disease or mishap that causes the animal to become a casualty, a very careful and detailed inspection of carcase and all organs and offals is necessary to ensure that only meat which is in all respects fit for human food reaches the consumer.

In addition to the foregoing, 685 tons 10 cwts - 24½ lbs of imported meat and offals were dealt with at the abattoir which, together with the home killed meat (637 tons, 10 cwts, 1 qtr 21½ lbs) gives a grand total of 1323 tons, 6 cwts, 2 qtrs, 18 lbs.

The following table shows the different species of animals and the number of whole carcasses or parts condemned for tuberculosis and other diseases:-

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned	7	26	39	20	8
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	509	172	11	360	34
Percentage of the number inspected and affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	38.02	43.8	12.07	7.0	21.1
Tuberculosis Only. Whole carcasses condemned	17	41	2	NIL	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	95	155	1	NIL	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.2	43.3	.72	NIL	10.55

Classification and Weights of Condemned Food.

Beef & Offal	70208	lbs
Veal & Offal	1906	"
Mutton & Offal	1611	"
Pork & Offal	1885	"
Tinned Foods	2121½	"
Other Foods	586¼	"
Total	78318½	lbs

or 34 Tons 19 cwts. 1 qtr. 2½lbs.

Causes for Condemnation of Foods.Cattle

Tuberculosis	43935	lbs
Inflammation	460	"
Cirrhosis	5028	"
Mastitis	1493	"
Abscesses	613	"
Calloused	53	"
Johnes Disease	1272	"
Decomposed	484	"
Septicaemia	5583	"
Angioma	253	"
Actinomyces	185	"
Broken limb - bruised	268	"
Emphysema	8	"
Melanosis	29	"
Carcinoma	1	"
Rupture of bowel	20	"
Traumatic injury	20	"
Dropsy & emaciation	754	"
Cysts	111	"
Bruised	227	"
Moribund, dystokia & fevered	2227	"
Pneumonia	24	"
Uremia, fevered & septic	564	"
Fatty degeneration	13	"
Nephritis	2150	"
Fatty infiltration	52	"
Moribund, badly bruised & fevered .	440	"
Fevered, extensive & severe bruising	756	"
Menningitis	30	"
Fevered & emaciated	2214	"
Abscesses & moribund	114	"
Internal decomposition	87	"
Actinobacillosis	30	"
Heated (bone taint)	96	"
Fevered & badly set	614	"
		<hr/>
		70208 lbs
		<hr/>

Calves

Tuberculosis	237	lbs
Moribund	495	"
Broken limb	49	"
Septic Peritonitis	46	"
Pneumonia	55	"
Dropsy & emaciation	118	"
Inflammation	170	"
Immaturity	88	"
Johnes disease	22	"
Bruised	109	"
Fevered	360	"
Septicaemia	157	"
		<hr/>
		1906 lbs
		<hr/>

Sheep

Inflammation	171	lbs
Cirrhosis	352	"
Pneumonia	89	"
Hauled	4	"
Cysts	90	"
Dropsy & emaciation	330	"
Pyæmia	39	"
Strongyles	22	"
		<hr/>

Carried forward.1097

Sheep contd.

Brought forward	1097	lbs
Ruptured bowel	6	"
Moribund & septic	89	"
Peritonitis & abscesses	121	"
Abscesses	12	"
Emaciation	14	"
Fevered & emaciation	200	"
Calloused	5	"
Broken limb	24	"
Bruised	2	"
Suppuration & fevered	41	"
	<hr/>	
	1611	lbs
	<hr/>	

Pigs

Tuberculosis	639	lbs
Sarcocysts	345	"
Broken limb	26	"
Swine erysipelas	88	"
Inflammation	75	"
Angioma	5	"
Pneumonia	33	"
Emaciated & dropsical	72	"
Calloused	4	"
Fevered	102	"
Moribund	72	"
Bruised	11	"
Septicaemia	277	"
Decomposed	2	"
Traumatic injury	18	"
Cirrhosis	28	"
Abscesses	15	"
Infiltration	73	"
	<hr/>	
	1885	lbs
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Other Foods

Tinned Food - Decomposed	2121 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs
Sugar - wet & fouled by rats ..	28	"
Sponge mixture - mouldy	24	"
Dried fruit - decomposed	180 $\frac{1}{4}$	"
Fish cakes	24	"
Chocclates - maggotty	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
Coconut - decomposed	2	"
Table desert	9	"
Desert mould - decomposed	14	"
Pudding mixture .. "	24	"
Meat paste .. "	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
Onions .. "	1	"
Beetroot .. "	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
Macaroni .. "	7	"
Meat .. "	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	"
Fish .. "	168	"
Flour .. "	72	"
	<hr/>	
	2708 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs
	<hr/>	

All meat and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption are stained green with a special dye as a precaution against the meat being used for human consumption. The condemned food is then taken by Contractors employed by the Ministry of Food for digestion and conversion into bone meal, fertilisers, glue etc.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

All animals slaughtered at the Abattoir are stunned prior to slaughter by means of a 'Cash' captive bolt pistol. There has been no cause for complaint regarding the handling of animals at the Abattoir throughout the year.

There were 35 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-46.

The number of farms, etc. within the Urban District at which milk is produced is eighteen, four of which are licensed for the production of Accredited milk.

During the year 42 visits of inspection were made to milk farms and 35 cowshed inspections were made. Arising out of these visits 4 notices were served requiring the limewashing of cowsheds. The notices were complied with.

Five milk samples were taken during the year of which two proved satisfactory and three not satisfactory. Immediate investigations were made to discover the cause of the unsatisfactory samples and every attempt was made to remedy the cause.

Fourteen licences were issued for the retail of milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-46. Ten were for the sale of 'Tuberculin Tested' milk and four for the sale of 'Pasteurised' milk.

ICE CREAM.

Much work remains to be done in this direction. Only two premises were registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, during the year. Manufacture of ice cream is not, however, carried on to any great extent in the District, the main trade being in prepacked ice cream.

It is hoped that during 1949 registration of all ice cream premises will be possible and every effort will be made in this direction.

BAKEHOUSES, FRIED FISH SHOPS, CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS,
ETC.

These have been visited during the year as often as has been possible, but it would be much more satisfying if closer supervision could be given to these premisses. It will be appreciated that many improvements in these premises could be brought about if frequent visits of an advisory nature could be made. As stated previously, these establishments are usually well managed, but it is felt that extra visits could bring about changes that would benefit the trade, and, what is more important to this department, the public of this town.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE RECOVERY.

The collection and disposal of house refuse proceeded throughout the year regularly and without major difficulty. A seven to eight day service was maintained in addition to which each Thursday was devoted to collection of shops refuse. No charge is made for the removal of trade refuse from shops, business premises, etc.

The service comprises the following staff and equipment.

<u>Refuse Collection.</u>	One Karrier Bantam (7 cu yds) with driver and three men (this vehicle does the shops round on a Thursday.)
	One Karrier Bantam (7 cu yds) with driver and two men.
<u>Refuse Disposal.</u>	One man (full time) and one man (part time).
<u>Salvage Recovery.</u>	One man (part time).

A total of nine men and two vehicles. The Karrier Bantam refuse vehicles are fitted with trailers to facilitate the collection of salvage. (Waste paper, carpets, iron, etc.).

Wages and conditions of service for the workmen were substantially improved during the year, the working week now being 44 hours. Protective clothing is provided for the workmen.

Ings tip continued to be used for the disposal of refuse. The methods of 'controlled tipping' is used and the tip has been maintained in a tidy condition. One outbreak of fire occurred during the year. This was successfully dealt with by trenching and soaking.

One disturbing feature is the amount of wilful damage at the tip. Appeals have been made to the Police but the damage still goes on. Locks have been burst from doors and salvaged materials interferred with; bottles and jars have been broken on the carriageways, all of which

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... have been ... doors and salvaged ...
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made to the Police but the damage still goes on.
... have been ... doors and salvaged ...
... bottles and jars have
been ... all of which

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means time wasted in clearing up, and expense in replacements.

Warning notices were erected on the tip fence to try to discourage unauthorised persons entering the tip area.

The salvaging of waste paper, scrap iron, rags, carpets, bagging, string, sacking, bones, bottles and jars continued throughout the year and resulted in an income of £660, details of which are now given:-

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	lbs	£	s	d
Waste paper ...	90	19	0	0	577	19	11½
Scrap iron	10	10	1	0	26	13	9
Rags	1	2	2	14	24	17	9
Carpets	1	0	1	8	4	1	4
Bagging		2	2	10		15	6
String		5	3	10	1	15	0
Sacking		6	3	6	2	0	10
Bones		2	3	0	11	8	5
Bottles	98½	dozen			6	8	6
Jars	134	"			4	6	0
	104	10	0	20	£660	7	0½

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The public conveniences in the town have been the cause of grave concern throughout the year, particularly the obsolete underground convenience in the Market Place.

Many complaints have been received and reports have been submitted to the Health Committee.

An attendant is employed by the Council for the purpose of cleansing and general maintenance of the conveniences. As many as four visits per day (including Saturday and Sunday) have been made for cleaning of the conveniences, but despite this vigilance there have been many cases of gross abuse. During a 44 day observation of the Market Place conveniences 33 cases of misuse were noted. Excreta was found on seats, floors and walls, seats and floors were wet with urine and many other filthy conditions due to misuse were noted. In addition to this, much wanton damage was done, prepayment locks broken, cisterns filled with paper and stones, and door panels broken.

In an effort to overcome the difficulties of the Market Place conveniences a site has been chosen in Newmarket for the erection of a block of modern conveniences.

It is hoped that the new conveniences will include facilities for full time attendants, both male and female.

When the new conveniences are erected the underground conveniences in Market Place should be immediately dismantled and the site levelled.

FACTORIES.

The number of factories within the Urban District is 101 of which 86 are factories with mechanical power and 15 without mechanical power.

The important difference to this Authority between a 'power' and a 'non-power' factory lies in the fact that in non-power factories the Local Authority is responsible for all matters included in the following sections of the Factories Act, 1937:-

Section 1:	Cleanliness
" 2:	Overcrowding
" 3.	Temperature
" 4.	Ventilation
" 6:	Drainage of floors
" 7:	Sanitary conveniences
" 34.	Means of escape in case of fire.

but in the case of 'power' factories the Local Authority is responsible only for sanitary conveniences (Section 7), and means of escape in case of fire (Section 34).

During the year 28 visits of inspection were made to factories, and the number of cases where defects were found and remedied were as follows:-

Uneffective drainage to floors remedied (Section 6)	8
Unsuitable or defective W.C's remedied (Section 7)	22
Sanitary conveniences not separate for sexes (Section 7)	3
Other offences against the Act (not relating to outworkers)	6
	<hr/>
	39
	<hr/>

53 outworkers were listed during the year, four employed in the making of wearing apparel and forty-nine employed in the carding of drawing materials, rubber bands, etc.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

36 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit or petroleum mixtures during the year.

Two licences cover the storage of petroleum, calcium carbide, and cellulose solution; One licence is for petroleum and calcium carbide; Five licences are for petroleum and cellulose solution; Twenty-seven licences are for petroleum only and one licence is for cellulose solution only.

The whole of the licences allow for the storage of

31915 gallons of petrol
168 pounds of calcium carbide
550 gallons of cellulose solution.

No breach of the Act was met with during the several visits of inspection made to these licensed premises.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During the year fifteen visits were made to retail shops under the above Act. Four defects were found and remedied as hereunder.

Sanitary convenience provided	1
Washing facilities provided	1
Defective water closet repaired	1
Accummulation of refuse removed	1

HACKNEY CARRIAGES.

Ten Hackney Carriage licences were granted during the year, and seventeen Hackney Carriage Driver's licences were issued.

All vehicles are first inspected by the West Riding Constabulary for mechanical soundness and licences are withheld until a certificate of suitability is received.

Drivers must satisfy the West Riding Constabulary as to their driving capability, and a certificate of suitability must be received by this Authority before a licence is granted.

There are no byelaws in force for the control of Hackney Carriages, nor is there a specified taxi rank within the area. The Council prescribe the fares to be charged and the method of arriving at the charge. No complaints were received during the year.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

In general the boiler plants within the Urban District are well managed. Smoke observations were taken during the year and where necessary informal action was taken.

A certain amount of tolerance is, however, necessary at the present time because of the poor quality of the fuel delivered to the industrial premises. In many cases large quantities of slack coal and outcrop coal had to be used. The managements have little or no choice in the matter of the quality of coal delivered to the factory and even though they may be well aware of the uneconomic nature of the fuel they can do little to alter this state of affairs.

A soot deposit gauge for the measurement of atmospheric pollution is stationed in the Nursery Gardens, Westgate. Thanks are here due to Mr. Harris for permitting the use of this land for the purpose of siting the gauge. The site is representative of the 'industrial' part of the town, and I am happy to state that no interference with the gauge has taken place throughout the year.

The gauge collecting bottle is changed monthly and the contents of the bottle analysed by Messrs. Richardson and Jaffe, Bradford. The analysis is paid for by the County Council. From the analyses the following information is compiled:-

	Rainfall (Milli.)	Tons per square mile		
		Total Insoluble	Total Soluble	Total Solids.
January	123.00	4.88	12.57	17.45
February	44.00	16.97	7.62	24.59
March	36.00	7.89	5.80	13.69
April	68.00	7.5	9.09	16.59
May	18.00	7.96	6.71	14.67
June	60.00	2.69	7.37	10.06
July	21.00	4.36	5.87	10.23
August	16.00	12.33	1.67	14.00
September	41.00	10.37	7.12	17.49
October	32.00	1.95	8.03	9.98
November	25.00	8.06	5.52	13.58
December	69.00	6.56	12.58	19.14

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The ambulance service, taken over by the Council in the latter part of 1928 provided ambulance facilities for the residents within the Urban District. In 1945 the Wharfedale Rural District and the Otley Urban District pooled their resources and formed the Joint Ambulance service, which was operated by a Joint Committee. On the 15th February, 1948, the ambulance service was taken over by the West Riding County Council. The ambulance depot now serving this area is at Guiseley.

The ambulance hut at Wharfemeadows continues to be maintained by the Council. During the year the hut was provided with a water supply, wash basin and drain.

Six first aid boxes are maintained by the Council at the following points within the area:-

Bradford Road.
Manor Square
Bridge End
Maypole Square
Pool Road
Leeds Road.

These are inspected regularly and replenishments are made as necessary.

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION.

The mortuary was used twelve times during 1948. During the year it was suggested that a refrigerator for the reception of bodies should be installed, but the Committee felt that the time was not opportune for such installation. A set of post mortem instruments was purchased for the use of Medical Practitioners conducting post mortem examinations. These instruments are available on loan, for use at the Mortuary, Pool Road, to authorised persons on application to the Sanitary Department.

The mortuary is cleansed regularly as a routine procedure, and is attended daily when in use and thoroughly cleansed after use.

